CONCERNS REGARDING INSPECTION FFES: VETERINARY FACILITIES

Dr Clive Marwick, President Outgoing Council, July 2016

Colleagues,

Recently, at the outgoing Council’s final meeting held on Tuesday, 26 July 2016 a decision was made to-

Refer the concerns regarding the inspection fees, as expressed by a few principals of veterinary facilities, to the Inspections Committee, and after consideration by the Inspections Committee, to the Finance Committee for a recommendation to Council. The main concern was that there was no differentiation made in the inspection fee for the different facility categories.

Current position:

- The fee for inspection of a facility in the current financial year is R 3970.
- Depending on the travel distances, an inspector will be able to inspect three facilities on one day.
- The day fee paid to the inspector, the travel and other costs incurred will be covered by the inspection fees.
- In the event that the inspector is unable to complete the inspections in one single day due to travel distances between facilities s/he would be remunerated for a second day.
- Routine inspections are thus self-funded.

It was resolved to retain the current inspection fee until such time that the matter could be further deliberated by Council. However, we need your input on the matter.

Some of the factors to be considered are listed for your input -

- Currently there is only anecdotal information regarding the financial performance of different categories of veterinary facilities.
- Veterinarians generally know how to charge for time and travel and such an approach could be considered.
- Herd health facilities or consultancies [feedlots etc.] could involve more time spent [both for inspection- and travel time] compared to time spent on inspection of town- or city practices.
- Time spent could be translated into the perusal of the self-evaluation form as completed by the principal of the facility, the travel time, the visit/inspection itself, the completion of the report and the liaison between the inspector and the administration and the Inspections Committee.
- The inspectors attended a training workshop and they will conduct inspections in an advisory manner.
- The inspection is an opportunity for principals and veterinary staff to be heard and to address a representative of Council who will provide feedback to the Council.
- Members of both the veterinary and para-veterinary professions in all fields of veterinary science [private and public service experience] were approved as inspectors.
- Inspections do not only relate to the use of medicines.
- A facility that have been inspected and complied with the minimum standards will receive a certificate of compliance, which may be displayed.
- The self-funded inspection fee as currently proposed makes budgeting less cumbersome and more accurate.

Please provide us with your comments by sending your comments to the Mr Sive Nqawe at: bookkeeper@savc.org.za